1,143,926

PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

1,143,926

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

A Moulded Plastics Container for Transporting Live Animals or Birds

We, THE BUXTED CHICKEN CO. LIMITED, a British Company, of Gordon Road, Buxted, Sussex, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to a moulded plastics container for transporting live chicks or other small creatures.

Cardboard containers are known for the transport of live chicks but the number of chicks which die or are damaged during transport in such containers is high. Containers made for example of wood are expensive to use because they are heavy and bulky and therefore difficult to return to the sender.

In accordance with the present invention a moulded plastic container for transporting live chicks has a body and a lid which provide apertures for the circulation of air through the container when it is closed by the lid, the body and lid being shaped so that an interlocking stack is formed when one closed container is placed on top of a similar closed container and the container body being capable of nesting inside another similar container body when empty and without its lid.

The nesting of one container when empty and without its lid within another similar container may be affected by having the walls of the container slope slightly outwards towards the top of the container. The lids of the containers may also be made in such a way that they are capable of nesting inside each other.

Preferably the container is divided into separate compartments, each compartment being of a size suitable for 26 chicks.

The circulation of air through the container when closed with the lid may be provided by means of ventilation holes in the lid and apertures between the lid and the walls of the body of the container. More particularly the apertures may be at the corners of the container. In this example the upper parts of the end and side walls of the container body are continued in their normal planes to meet and form the corners of the container and inwardly of each corner there is an angled wall which extends short of the upper edge of the walls thus forming an aperture through which air can circulate into or out of the container when closed.

The member dividing the container into separate compartments may also extend short of the upper edge of the walls and thus air may circulate from one compartment to another.

The containers may be provided with legs in the form of fins which fit into channels in the lid of the container for stacking purposes. The legs are of greater height than the depth of the channels so that there is space between the stacked containers.

To assist in removing the containers from the mould and to enable the empty containers to nest within one another the walls have a slope outwards towards the top of the container. This may be for example a slope of $\frac{1}{2}°$ to 2° from the vertical but if the slope of the end walls is as much as 10° then the chicks can be more easily poured from the container.

One example of a container constructed in accordance with the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a top perspective view of a two-compartment container when closed with a lid;

Figure 2 is a bottom perspective view of the container when closed with the lid;

Figure 3 is a top perspective view of the open container body; and,

Figure 4 is an enlarged sectional detail on the line IV—IV of Figure 1.

In the drawings the compartments 10 and 11 of the body are separated from each other by a central hollow, downwardly open partition wall 12 which extends short of the upper

edge of the side walls 13. The compartments are provided with end walls 14 and diagonal corner walls 15. When two open bodies are stocked together the hollowness of the wall 12 of the upper body accomodated the wall 12 of the body below.

Compartments 10 and 11 are provided with fins 16 and 17 provided on the base of the container body and forming legs. Such legs fit channels 18 and 19 formed in the lid 20 of each container and the hollow wall 12 so that one container will interlock and stack upon another similar container closed by means of the lid. The legs are of such a height that in the stack formed by a number of such containers there is space between each container for a circulation of air between the containers and through the insides of the containers through apertures 21 (described more fully hereinafter) and also through the air holes 22 provided in the lid.

On the inside bottom of each compartment of the container body there are provided upstanding ridges 23 which reduce the movement of wood wool or similar material placed in the compartment for the protection of chicks during transport.

Two of the side edges of lid 20 are provided with clips 24 which co-operate with projections 25 provided on the outside of the upper parts of the side walls of the container body. These clips enable the lids to be snapped home for closing the container and the lid can be released again owing to the elasticity of the plastics material such as for example high density polyethylene from which the containers are moulded.

It will be seen that the upper parts of the end and side walls are continued in their normal plane to meet and form corners to the container. Inwardly of these corners there are angled walls 15 which extend short of the upper edge of the end and side walls and, even when the lid is applied, form an aperture 21 through which air can circulate through the container as shown by the dotted arrows in Figure 4. The fact that central wall 12 also extends short of the upper edge of the side walls allows air to circulate from one compartment to the other.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A moulded plastics container for transporting live chicks and having a body and a lid which provide apertures for the circulation of air through the container when it is closed by the lid, the body and lid being shaped so that an interlocking stack is formed when one closed container is placed on top of a similar closed container and the container body being capable of nesting inside another similar container body when empty and without its lid.

2. A container as claimed in claim 1, in which the upper parts of the end and side walls of the container body are continued in their normal planes to meet and form the corners of the container and inwardly of each corner there is an angled wall which extends short of the upper edge of the walls thus forming an aperture through which air can circulate into or out of the container when closed.

3. A container as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, in which the lid is provided with holes.

4. A container as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, in which fins are provided on the outside of the base of the container body and complementary channels are provided in the top of the lid, the fins of one container being arranged to fit into the channels of a container below when two containers are stacked, and being of a height greater than the depth of the channels so that there is space between the stacked containers.

5. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which there are separate compartments in the body separated by a central hollow, downwardly open partition wall extending between the opposite side walls of the body.

6. A container as claimed in claim 5, in which the central wall extends short of the upper edge of the side walls.

7. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the end and side walls of the body slope outwards towards the top of the container.

8. A container as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which there is a clip on each of two side edges of the lid for cooperation with a projection on the outside of the upper edge of the corresponding side wall of the body for securing the lid to the body.

9. A container substantially as described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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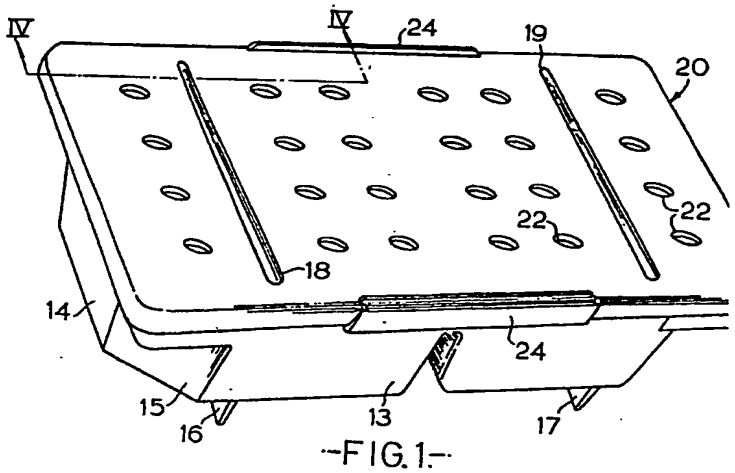
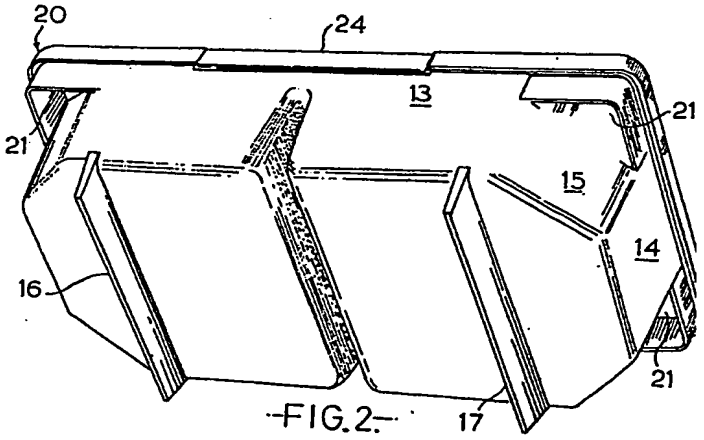


-FIG. 1-



-FIG. 2-

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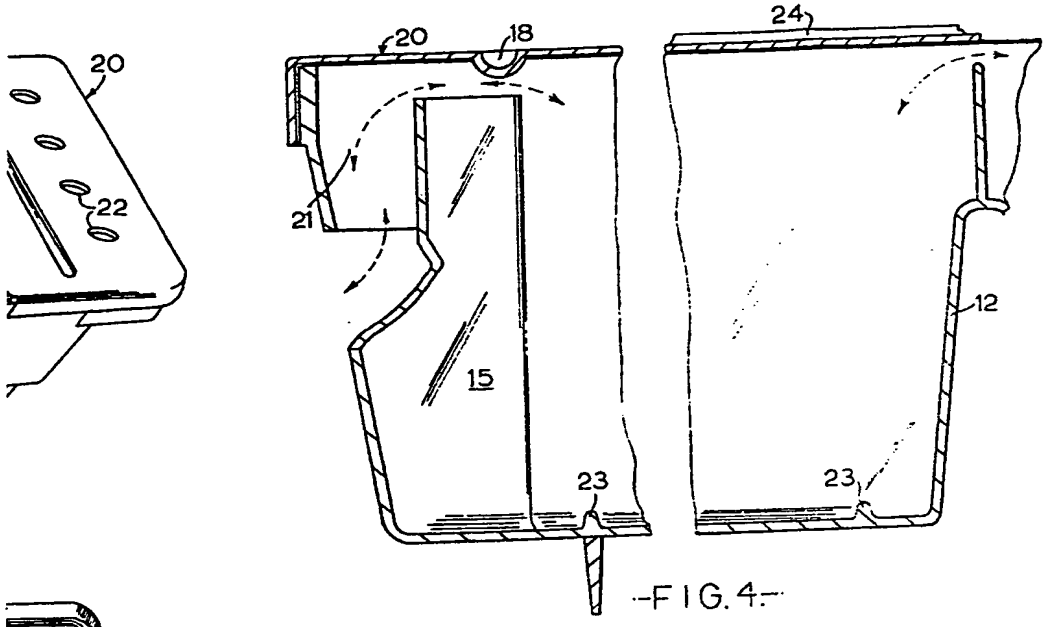
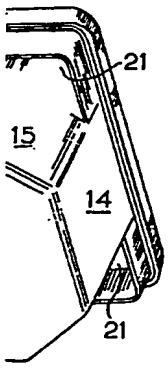
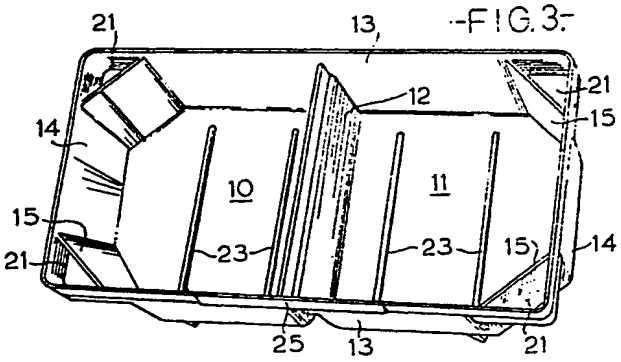
Sheets 1 & 2



-FIG. 4.-





-FIG. 3.-

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2 SHEETS This drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale
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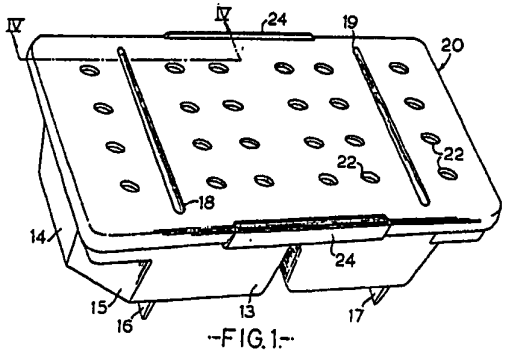
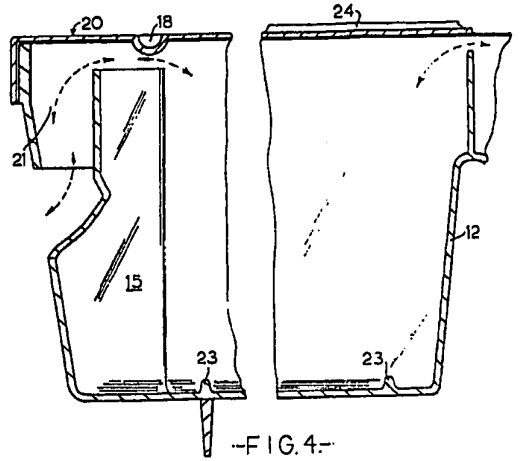
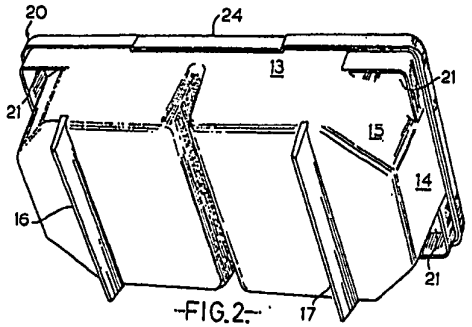


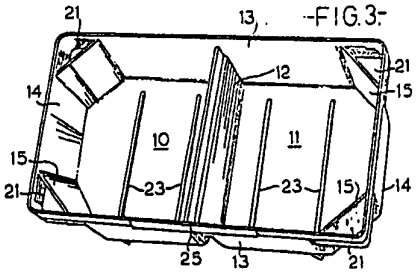
-FIG. 1.-



-FIG. 4.-



-FIG. 2.-



-FIG. 3.-